

## JOINT INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE AUTHORITY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

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**BRIDGE OF HISTORY** 

May 6, 2003

## <u>NEWS RELEASE</u>

The International Bridge Administration today announced that one-way traffic crossings of the International Bridge at Sault Ste. Marie totaled 130,903 for the month of April, 2003. This figure represents a decrease of 16.46% as compared to April, 2002.

Traffic statistics for the month are as follows:

Vehicle Classification	One-Way Crossings	Percent of Inc/Dec. from 4/02	Percent of Total Crossings
Full-Fare Passenger Cars:	56,028	-22.1%	42.8%
Commuter Fare:	63,956	-12.3%	48.9%
Cars Pulling Trailers:	900	-22.7%	0.7%
Commercial Trucks:	10,019	-6.3%	7.6%
Totals:	130,903		100%

Traffic for calendar year 2003 has totaled 536,236 vehicles; this represents a decrease of 9.19 % as compared to 2002. Since the bridge opened in 1962, over 73,771,000 vehicles have crossed the structure.

Manager's Note: April traffic declined for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year. Traffic levels are down to 1987 levels. At the same time traffic is decreasing, operational and maintenance costs for the 40-year old bridge are increasing. Again this summer, over \$1.5 million dollars will be invested on painting and repairing portions of the bridge to keep it structurally sound and in good condition.

The U.S. Border Inspection Station now has 3 lanes that will be available to process traffic for the duration of the 2-year long project. The opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> lane will help minimize delays and reduce bridge traffic back-ups.

Sincerely,

International Bridge Administration

Phillip M. Becker, P.E. General Manager